

Meeting people from all backgrounds who share similar interests and cultures. Gaining insights into the local area and deepening my understanding of demographic change



I think hearing about how other countries had issues similar but different from ours was very insightful!



I learned to question before having biased assumptions.

When I made a presentation about my study abroad in China, my professors and staff in Waseda and Peking praised me. It was so happy. Also I could make a lot of friends from China, South Korea and Singapore and I was lucky to discuss Asian issues seriously .

Comments
from
Participants

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It was a good experience for the students to go out and make observations in the field in spite of the difficult conditions.

It was a great opportunity to mix and share information about the difference in culture and the current situation about low birth rate and aging society.



Eating Japanese food with friends and exploring Japan were the best experience.

The most exciting was my walk to Toyoma Heights as it looked very much like the heartland areas of Singapore. It told me that estates built in the 70-80s followed a similar brutalist architecture due to the pressing socioeconomic issues of the time, which is to house a growing population.



Thank you for hosting the forum and inviting me as a leader. I would like to share my experience as a student leader. I believe all the members of my team were able to enjoy the event. However, it would have been better if the excursion was not in the middle of the day and instead the early morning or late afternoon when the temperatures were lower. Everyone was too tired fighting the heat, and unable to take the time to make deep observations. In addition, my group members have told me that they wanted to explore other parts of Tokyo. It might have been a better experience for the students to choose the destination of visit.



I enjoyed the two excursions during the forum. Though walking under intense sunshine was hard, it was really nice getting to know and talking to the group members from the four universities while doing the fieldwork.

As a student staff, it was a great opportunity to contribute to this program and its cause, while supporting international students during their stay. The students were all very kind, and I feel honored to have met them.

Comments
from
Participants

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Korean students mentioned that Shinjuku is really similar to the soul city 10 years before, and Chinese students mentioned that this place really resembles the current Beijing

What impressed me most about the forum was the enthusiasm of everyone to get to know each other and the tolerance of differences. We come from different countries, have different growth experiences and social backgrounds, and therefore have different perceptions and viewpoints. I am touched by the friendly and harmonious communication and tolerance of these differences. In the group discussion on social innovation design, our group explored the root causes of aging society and extended to the topics of gender equality and family division of labor. In the discussion I learned about the prevalence of home care workers in Singapore and the discrimination against highly educated women in the traditional Japanese concept of marriage. At the same time, we four countries share the same challenges, such as competitive pressures in education. This allowed me to get a deeper understanding of the sides of other countries that I haven't noticed before and to think about the lessons we can learn from each other and areas of cooperation. This activity is a valuable and meaningful experience for me.



Thank you for planning this wonderful event! Each day was so exciting and I learned a lot of new things. Especially in the discussion of the last day, I catch many differences between each country.

It was impressive that I could exchange short letters with each other among group members written in their mother tongues. Although we used English all the time in the forum, trying to read and understand each others' languages regardless of the language skills represents our mutual respect and friendship. What was good is that we were at that time trying to reach closer to our individual cultural and linguistic contexts, and above all, we did it purely voluntarily at the end of the forum. Even though it was only three days, it was enough time to build up friendship which made us to try to overcome the language differences. Since we had a translator with ourselves, it was relatively easy to understand what the letters say. I was thinking that the technology hopefully promotes this kind of friendships even more in the future.

It's a valuable experience for me to get to know Tokyo through this forum. I cherish the opportunity to interact with students from different backgrounds. It's always intriguing to see how different we were raised and how common our values are.

*Comments
from
Participants*

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This event has been incredibly rewarding, allowing me to gain a deeper understanding of my abilities and value. I discovered that, as a Korean studying in China, I can not only live up to the atmosphere between Chinese and Korean students but also serve as a cultural bridge between the two countries. Moreover, I learned a lot of valuable experiences from interacting with other students. Particularly during discussions, I deeply realized that asking appropriate questions plays a crucial role in promoting in-depth discussions. Through this event, I not only improved my communication and social skills but also enhanced my understanding and confidence in cross-cultural exchanges. In the future, I hope to continue playing such a bridging role, fostering more friendly exchanges and cooperation among students from various countries.

I found it really enlightening to understand the historical context and the multicultural dynamics that have shaped Okubo into the vibrant community it is today. I have always visited Shinjuku to enjoy Korean food with my friends, and before this forum, I regarded this place primarily as a popular spot for delicious cuisine. However, the forum highlighted the area's transformation over time and its role as a cultural hub, embracing diversity and fostering a unique blend of cultures. This experience has deepened my appreciation for the cultural richness and the socio-historical fabric of Okubo, making it more than just a place to enjoy Korean food but a significant location of cultural convergence and interaction.





The excursion impressed me the most and I can realize the multi culture and diversity in Tokyo.

The last day, because I can hear different opinions from different countries.....

I thought all Asian countries would have very similar concerns, but it was surprising that they had various views on the same issue. In particular, I was very impressed with the time to freely discuss with friends outside the group on the morning of the second day.

*Comments
from
Participants*

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Joining the Campus Asia program significantly enriched my understanding of the aging population issues across four countries, the central theme of this summer forum. This experience not only allowed me to delve into innovative solutions for both short-term and long-term challenges but also provided a unique opportunity to engage with diverse, like-minded individuals. The interactions with participants from varied backgrounds broadened my perspective, fostering a deeper appreciation for the multifaceted nature of the aging population dilemma and inspiring collaborative approaches to address these pressing concerns.

My biggest takeaway from this experience is immersing myself in the environment where everyone comes from different backgrounds! Coming from Singapore, interacting with people of different races is not too foreign to me but in the case of this forum, it felt like I was once again places outside of my comfort zone. When meeting my new friends from Japan and South Korea, I was reminded of how intercultural communication is not just about the language barrier, but also the values we bring to the table due to different societal experiences. In the end, trying to overcome our differences and making sure that there was no assumption made was crucial in our discussions, which might have made progress slower than expected, but very enriching nonetheless.

